

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182849 TOSEC 080288

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:OVIP JA(MIKI, TAKEO)
SUBJ: MIKI VISIT BOOK BRIEFING PAPER: NORTH KOREAN
APPROACH VIA JAPAN

1. FOLLOWING IS AN ADDITIONAL BRIEFING PAPER ENTITLED
"NORTH KOREAN APPROACH VIA JAPAN" FOR THE MIKI VISIT
BOOK TO BE INSERTED AT A NEW TAB N IN THE ISSUES AND TALK-
ING POINTS PAPERS SECTION OF BOOK:

2. BACKGROUND: JAPANESE LDP DIET MEMBER TOKUMA
UTSUNOMIYA MADE AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT JULY15 TO NORTH KOREA
WHERE HE MET WITH PRESIDENT KIM IL-SUNG. ON RETURNING TO
TOKYO, UTSUNOMIYA REPORTED KIM'S VIEWS TO PRIME MINISTER
MIKI. SUBSEQUENTLY, UTSUNOMIYA TOLD THE PRESS THAT KIM
HAD ASKED MIKI TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT FORD KIM'S DESIRE
TO CONVERT THE 1953 KOREAN ARMISTICE AGREEMENT INTO A US-
NORTH KOREAN PEACE TREATY. HE CLAIMED THAT THE PRC
SUPPORTED THIS PROPOSAL AND HAD CONVEYED IT TO WASHINGTON
WHERE IT HAD BEEN FAVORABLY RECEIVED. THE JAPANESE PRESS
HAS SPECULATED WIDELY THAT THE US SECRETLY CONTACTED KIM
IL-SUNG DURING HIS RECENT FOREIGN TRAVEL. WHILE EXPLICITLY
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DENYING THAT HE HIMSELF WAS ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR
THE US, UTSUNOMIYA'S COMMENT THAT US AND DPRK SEEMED HEADED
TOWARD AN EARLY RECONCILIATION HAVE INDIRECTLY GIVEN
CREDENCE TO THIS PRESS SPECULATION.

UTSUNOMIYA IS AN OFTEN-PUBLICIZED BUT MINOR FIGURE IN THE LEFT WING OF THE RULING LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. FOR YEARS, HE HAS SOUGHT TO MAKE A NAME FOR HIMSELF AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN ASIA. AS SUCH, HE HAS BEEN IN STEP WITH MIKI WHO PHILOSOPHICALLY SHARES HIS INTERESTS IN REDUCING TENSIONS IN KOREA AND ELSEWHERE IN ASIA. NEVERTHELESS, UTSUNOMIYA'S MOTIVATION IN VISITING PYONGYANG THIS TIME APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS BECAUSE HE NEEDS THE FAVORABLE PUBLICITY TO HELP SAVE HIM FROM PROBABLE DEFEAT IN THE NEXT LOWER HOUSE ELECTION.

3. JAPANESE POSITION: UTSUNOMIYA DID NOT TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA AS AN EMISSARY FOR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT OR LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. HOWEVER, MIKI PERSONALLY MET UTSUNOMIYA SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE AND ASKED HIM TO URGE THE NORTH KOREANS TO TAKE STEPS TO MEET THEIR UNPAID DEBTS AS THE DPRK'S UNFAVORABLE CREDIT STANDING WAS HAMPERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN'S TRADE WITH NORTH KOREA. MIKI HAS TOLD PRESS OF HIS WISH TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT ABOUT UTSUNOMIYA'S REPORT OF KIM'S VIEWS.

IN RECENT WEEKS, MIKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA HAVE BEEN EMPHASIZING JAPAN'S HOPE THAT TENSIONS ON THE PENINSULA CAN BE REDUCED THROUGH THE REVITALIZATION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH TALKS INITIATED IN 1972.

4. US POSITION: WE SEE NOTHING NEW IN KIM'S CALL FOR A US-DPRK PEACE TREATY. FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, PYONGYANG HAS REPEATEDLY ATTEMPTED TO ISOLATE THE ROKG AND DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE US. WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY INDICATED THE IMPORTANCE OF PYONGYANG'S DEALING DIRECTLY WITH SEOUL. OUR PUBLIC CALL FOR NORTH KOREA'S FORMAL AGREEMENT TO ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTINUE THE ARMISTICE AS THE CONDITION FOR DISBANDING THE UN COMMAND IN KOREA HAVE PROBABLY FORCED KIM TO PUBLICIZE HIS WILLINGNESS TO REPLACE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMISTICE WITH A US-DPRK TREATY, A STEP HE KNOWS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US AND ROK, IN ORDER TO SHIFT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AWAY FROM HIS UNWILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS THE ARMISTICE PROBLEM DIRECTLY.

WE HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED, AS HAS UTSUNOMIYA, THAT HE WAS IN ANY WAY ACTING AS AN INTERMEDIARY FOR US DURING HIS RECENT VISIT.

5. YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- I APPRECIATE YOUR TELLING ME OF UTSUNOMIYA'S TRIP.

-- FUNDAMENTALLY, KOREAN ISSUES MUST BE SETTLED BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA.

-- CONSEQUENTLY, WE CANNOT TAKE KIM'S PROPOSAL SERIOUSLY
BECAUSE, ONCE AGAIN, HE IS ATTEMPTING TO BYPASS THE ROK
AND DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE US.

-- AS KIM HAS PRESENTED HIS IDEA THROUGH AN UNOFFICIAL AND
WELL-PUBLICIZED CHANNEL, HIS MOTIVE APPEARS TO BE LARGELY
PROPOGANDISTIC.

-- I WOULD HOPE THAT THE NORTH WOULD RESPOND TO OUR
CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL FOR TERMINATION OF THE UN COMMAND
LINKED TO CONTINUATION OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT. IN
THAT PROPOSAL WE INDICATED THE READINESS OF THE ROKG
AND OURSELVES TO MEET WITH THE OTHER SIDE ON THIS. INGERSOLL

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